

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION
EXISTING AND A NEW OCEAN DISPOSAL SITE
MOUTH OF COLUMBIA RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE
OREGON-WASHINGTON**

Proposed Actions

The Corps of Engineers is proposing to use existing and new disposal site as part of the overall disposal plan for maintenance of the Mouth of the Columbia River entrance channel (MCR). Disposal options being considered are as follows:

Existing Disposal Sites

1. *North Jetty Site*. This site is near the MCR north jetty. Portland District began use of this site in 1999 to protect the jetty from potential undermining. Approximately 100,000 to 500,000 cy of sand would be placed in this site annually.
2. *Expanded Site E (Shallow Water Site)*. This approved ODMDS is located off the end of the north jetty and is highly erosive. Up to 3.7 million cy has been placed at this site in recent years. Based on site monitoring and management objectives, future use of this site will likely not be that high.
3. *Expanded Site F*. This approved ODMDS is located approximately 3 miles off the end of the jetties along the approach channel. This is a non-erosive site with somewhat limited capacity. EPA is not planning to designate this site under its 102 authority. Therefore it will not be used after May 2003 at which time EPA availability under Section 103 authority expires. Disposal at this site would only occur if all other available sites reach their full capacity.
4. *Site A*. This EPA designated ODMDS is located approximately 1 mile seaward from the south jetty. A limited quantity could be placed each year to help keep material in the littoral system and reduce accumulation at other sites. The maximum quantity to be placed here would be 500,000 cy per year with quantities more likely in the 100,000 cy range.

New Disposal Site

Benson Beach. This alternative new site is within the surf zone of Benson Beach in Fort Canby State Park, north of the north jetty. Placement of dredged material at this site would be considered a demonstration project to determine the feasibility for long-term beach nourishment of the site. The quantity of material placed at the site would depend on actual costs and the availability of funds. The intent is to place the maximum quantity possible in order to discern benefits and adequately determine effectiveness at offsetting erosion.

Consistency Review

Existing Disposal Sites

All existing disposal sites have been reviewed for consistency with Oregon and Washington coastal management programs. Concurrence with these determinations was issued by the States

for use of the North Jetty Site, Site A, Site F and the Expanded Site E. There have been no changes in site conditions, site use or effects since preparation of these consistency determinations. Issues such as mounding and effects on all marine resources, including Dungeness crabs were reviewed in these documents.

Dredging

Maintenance dredging of the MCR channel was reviewed for consistency with state and local plans in conjunction with the 1983 Environmental Impact Statement prepared for deepening the entrance channel. The consistency review determined that maintenance of the Federal entrance channel was an allowed activity in state and local plans. Subsequent Public Notices issued periodically for channel maintenance concluded that the action was consistent. Review of current plans likewise indicates that maintenance of the existing channel is an allowed activity.

Benson Beach Disposal Site

The proposed demonstration beach nourishment at Benson Beach has been reviewed for consistency with the Washington Coastal Management Program, specifically WAC 173-16-064, Ocean Management, and applicable provisions of the Pacific County Shoreline Master Program. Ocean management guidelines state in essence that ocean disposal sites should be located to prevent, avoid and minimize adverse impacts on environmentally critical and sensitive habitats, coastal resources and uses, or losses of opportunity for mineral resource development. The Pacific County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) incorporates the provisions of the State Ocean Resources Management Act (RCW 43.143) and related Ocean Management Guidelines (WAC-16-060). The following discussion addresses the applicable elements of the Pacific County SMP.

Pacific County Shoreline Master Program

The Benson Beach location is within the Shoreline Designation Pacific Ocean, Conservancy Shoreline Environment of the Pacific County Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed activity is a demonstration project to determine if long-term use of the site (beach nourishment) is feasible. Under WAC 173-27-040(m) this is an allowable activity as a prerequisite to preparation of an application for development authorization if:

- (i) The activity does not interfere with the normal public use of the surface waters.

The activity would be short-term over a limited area of beach. Recreational use of the immediate beach area affected by disposal and adjacent jetty would be displaced to adjacent locations.

- (ii) The activity will have no significant adverse effect on the environment including, but not limited to fish, wildlife, fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, and aesthetic values.

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared addressing potential effects on these resources. The assessment has concluded that the proposed action would not cause any significant adverse impacts.

(iii) The activity does not involve the installation of any structure, and upon completion of the activity, the vegetation and land configuration of the site are restored to conditions existing before the activity.

Structures associated with this work consist of a mooring barge or buoy on the Columbia River side of the jetty with a discharge pipe estimated to be in the 20-30" range extended to the beach nourishment site. Construction fencing or barricades would also be placed to prevent public access to the discharge area. These facilities are temporary and would only remain in place for a short period of time.

(iv) Not applicable.

(v) Not applicable

Conditions:

1. The activity is being coordinated with all local, State and Federal regulatory agencies regarding other "permitting" requirements.
2. The activity will implement Best Management Practices for beach nourishment.
3. All disturbed areas will be restored within 60 days of completion.
4. The substantive requirements for a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit will be met if it is determined economically and environmentally feasible to continue this beach nourishment project on a long-term basis.

SECTION 23. DREDGE MATERIAL DISPOSAL

Subsection b. states that in-water estuary and ocean disposal of dredged material shall:

- i. Demonstrate the need for the proposed action and the availability and desirability of alternate sites and methods of disposal;
- ii. Demonstrate that the sediment size and chemical characteristics of the material proposed for inwater disposal is substantially the same as the substrate in the disposal area

The use of the Benson Beach site is in direct response to State of Washington and local interest in reducing erosion of southwest Washington coastal beaches in general and Benson Beach in particular. Rehandling through a pipeline to place materials at the Benson Beach site is the only feasible or practical method.

The dredged material to be placed at the site is clean sand of marine origin, similar to the substrate at the site.

SECTION 27-OCEAN RESOURCES

Subsection E. Ocean Environment

7. Ocean Disposal. Ocean disposal shall be allowed in the Ocean Environment as a Conditional Use, subject to the following provisions:

a. Ocean Disposal shall only be allowed at sites approved by Washington Dept. Of Ecology, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

b. Not applicable.

Use of the site would not occur without the approval of these agencies. Based on the results of discussions with EPA and the State of Washington to date, use of this site is tentatively approved.

12. Permit Review Criteria. Pacific County may permit ocean and associated upland or coastal uses and activities if the criteria listed below are met or exceeded.

Although Pacific County cannot require a permit for this Federal activity, the following responses are provided to substantively address the criteria.

a. There is a demonstrated significant local, state or national need for the proposed use or activity;

The need for channel dredging has been previously established. The need for dredged material disposal at Benson Beach is established by the State of Washington, Pacific County and other local desires to reduce erosion of Benson Beach. If it is demonstrated that disposal at this location is effective, then ongoing future use of the site could contribute to the overall plan for disposal of dredged material from maintenance of the MCR channel.

b. There is no reasonable alternative to meet the public need for the proposed use or activity;

Use of available alternative locations would not fully address the State and local concern for coastal erosion in general and Benson Beach erosion in particular.

c. There will be no likely long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources or uses;

The proposal for use of the site is to demonstrate the effects of dredged material disposal on reducing erosion. This demonstration is short term and limited in scope not likely to result in long-term adverse impacts on resources or uses. The Environmental Assessment and Section 404 Evaluation prepared for this action describe the physical and biological resources of the proposed new site and the likely effects of using the site for disposal of dredged material from the MCR project. These reports conclude that disposal at the site would not result in significant effects on ocean resources within or adjacent to the site boundaries.

d. All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, with special protection provided for the marine life and resources of the Columbia River and Willapa Bay estuaries;

In addition to the above discussion, placement of the material below the high water line would minimize or avoid impacts to resources or uses at the sites. All reasonable steps would be taken to minimize or avoid impacts from the pipeline placement.

e. All reasonable steps are taken to avoid adverse social and economic impacts, including impacts on aquaculture, recreation, tourism, navigation, air quality, and recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing;

As stated above, the activity is a short term demonstration project. There would be short-term and minor impacts to recreation and recreational fishing.

f. Compensation is provided to mitigate adverse impacts to coastal resources or uses;

The proposed disposal activity would be conducted in response to efforts to protect coastal resources and uses, i.e., protect coastal beaches from erosion. If unacceptable adverse impacts to coastal resources and uses are demonstrated, the disposal activity would be discontinued.

g. Plans and sufficient performance bonding are provided to ensure that the site would be rehabilitated after the use or activity is completed;

The nature of this work performed on bare sand or within the active surf zone would likely not require rehabilitation. Plans for monitoring the effectiveness of the disposal will be developed with the affected State and local interests.

h. The use or activity complies with all local, state and Federal laws and regulations.

The proposed disposal action would comply with all laws and regulations as applicable.

Determination

Based upon careful review, we have determined that the proposed action to place dredged material at Ocean Disposal Sites A, Expanded F and Expanded Site E and at the North Jetty and Benson Beach Sites is consistent with both the Oregon and Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.